

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-16 are pending in the above-identified application, of which claim 16 is allowed. Claims 1-7 and 9-15 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 9, and 12 were amended and claim 17 was added. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-17 are at issue in the above-identified application.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Gary E. Elkins for his helpful and courteous interview held on September 20, 2005. Applicant's representative and Examiner Elkins discussed claims 1-16 and *Sparks* (U.S. Patent No. 2,744,622). Applicant's representative agreed to amend claim 1.

Objection To Specification

The specification has been amended, per the Examiner's request.

Objection To Claims

Claim 9 was objected to, as being improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 9 has been amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully submitted.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The claims have been amended to overcome this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted.

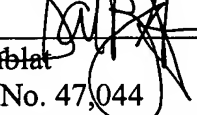
**35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims & 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection
of Claims**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sparks*. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sparks* in view of *Tokunaga et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,267,645). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Claim 1 has been amended to include *at least one liquid preparation placed in the at least one well*. None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, include *at least one liquid preparation placed in the at least one well*. Withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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